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THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

IRAQI AGGRESSION AND THE CONTINUED OCCUPATION OF KUWAIT IN FLAGRANT VIOLATION OF THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Letter dated 15 January 1991 from the Permanent Representative of Egypt to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit, in my capacity as Chairman of the Islamic Group, the appeal of His Excellency Dr. Hamid Algabid, Secretary-General of the Organization of the Islamic Conference to His Excellency Mr. Saddam Hussein, President of the Republic of Iraq, issued on 14 January 1991 (see annex), and kindly request that it be circulated as a document of the General Assembly under items 35 and 153.

(Signed) Amre MOUSSA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Appeal of His Excellency Dr. Hamid Algabid, Secretary-General of the Organization of the Islamic Conference to His Excellency Mr. Saddam Hussein, President of the Republic of Iraq, issued at Jeddah on 14 January 1991

Bismillah Ar Rahman Ar Rahim

"If two parties among
The Believers fall into
A quarrel, make Ye peace
Between them: but if
One of them transgresses
Beyond bounds against the other,
Then fight Ye (all) against
The one that transgresses
Until it complies with
The command of God ...
The Believers are but
A single Brotherhood:
So make peace and
Reconciliation between your
Two (contending) brothers;
And fear God, that Ye
May receive Mercy."

(Sura Hujurat, XLIX 9-10)

We, who are brothers in Islam, having declared, both heart and soul, our submission to the will of the Almighty Allah, believing in His Message and determined to follow in all respects the teachings of our noble religion, find ourselves today, unfortunately on the precipice of disaster.

The region of the Gulf, which encompasses the very heartland of Islam is threatened by a violent conflagration which would in its wake bring unimaginable destruction and sufferings to the Islamic nations and peoples and what is more, after the fires have burnt out, render desolate this sacred land and Islamic nations transforming into cinders the expectations and legitimate aspirations of the Muslims of the world to fashion for themselves and for mankind a glorious destiny.

By conforming to the dictates of Islam and bearing in mind the Medina Community, Muslims have for centuries happily lived together, by cultivating love, harmony, fraternity and solidarity amongst themselves. For centuries they adhered to the vision of building, on the foundations of their rich civilization and proud heritage, a brilliant future for themselves and for all the peoples on earth while trying to work with faith and energy for the future of a world promising justice, peace and progress for all.

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We could fathom and understand from this fact the pain and bitterness being felt by these millions of Muslims in the face of the division in the Islamic ranks. Similarly, we could measure and share the acute anguish which is being felt by the peoples of the Gulf region, the Muslims and entire world faced with the somber perspectives appearing on our horizon.

At this time of bitterness and anguish for all the Muslims, at this hour of all the dangers posed to the peoples of the Gulf region, Islamic nation and the world as a whole, I appeal to Your Excellency to act, the soonest, to prevent the outbreak of a war which would lead to incalculable consequences for our present and future.

For the sake of the lofty values enshrined in Islam, for the sake of higher interests of the Islamic nation and in the interest of world peace, I call upon Your Excellency to order without any delay the complete and unconditional withdrawal of Iraqi forces from the territory of Kuwait. It is an exigency of justice requested by all Muslims, millions of men and women the world over. It is a duty to be fulfilled in the name of Islam towards our peoples, future generations and humanity.

In total submission to Allah the Almighty and in compliance with the precepts of our noble religion, we are prepared to work in the framework of the Organization of the Islamic Conference to resolve the disputes, which arose and to help restore the climate of understanding, harmony and co-operation, which always characterized the Iraqi-Kuwaiti relations and, what is more, the relations between the countries and peoples of the Gulf region.

May Your Excellency have the strength and courage to act in this direction.

We beseech Allah Almighty to guide us to the Right Path.